

Upon consideration of this whole subject, your committee are of opinion, that provision ought at once to be made for levying a tax, not exceeding the net sum of \$600,000 a year, so long as the necessities of the State may require it—and as the tax cannot be made available by collection to meet the demands on the Treasury during the present year, your committee would further propose, that authority be conferred on the Treasurer of the Western Shore, to contract such temporary loans, not exceeding \$600,000 on the security of said tax, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per centum, as may be required for the use of the Treasury, but as that sum will be expended by the first of January 1842, and it is the purpose of your committee to relieve the Treasury to the first of April in that year, they would further recommend that the said Treasurer be empowered to borrow, at the same rate of interest, \$200,000 more, on a pledge of so much of the Bank stock of the State, as may be necessary to raise that sum, unless, in his judgment, the interest of the State will be better promoted by selling such portion of said stock as will realise to the Treasury the same amount, in which case it is proposed that he be authorised to sell. This will place the Treasury one quarter in advance of all the demands that can be made upon it, and by a prudent application of the avails of the tax as the same shall be received at the Treasury, it is believed that, after the current year, there can be no necessity to borrow in any one year, on the security of the tax more than \$350,000 to pay the interest on the existing public debt; and even that, your committee cannot believe will continue very long. It is well known that the State has a fair claim against the General Government for more than \$200,000, for interest on the debt incurred by this State, in the late war with Great Britain—her right to a just distribution of the sales of the public lands has before been adverted to, and it is not assuming too much, to expect from the change of policy which must shortly take place in the General Government, the payment of the 4th instalment of the public deposits. Looking to these several sources of supply, your committee indulge the hope, that in a few years, the necessity for borrowing to pay any portion of the interest on the public debt, will be removed—the Treasury be placed in a situation of perfect ease, by being one year in advance of all demands that can be made upon it, with an annually remaining surplus, which may be applied, if the Legislature so direct, to the reduction of the tax recommended in